

CHAPTER 9

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN CONTROL

Much of the charm and character of Barrington is the result of quality design and construction of new development, public improvements and rehabilitation/renovation of older properties. Protecting this attractive character depends on maintaining a strong ethic towards environmental design. The following objectives provide overall direction for environmental design in Barrington.

1. Clear and effective design and signage guidelines should be formulated, with one set of standards for the Village Center and a separate set of standards for Route 14. Control of private signs within the Village should be closely regulated and specifications should be kept within the sign ordinance.
2. Special efforts should be made to adopt architecture and design standards for all public buildings. Leadership by Village officials in developing and carrying out environmental design improvements on public buildings and in public areas is important and should serve to encourage similar improvements in business and residential areas.
3. The appearance of signs, buildings and lots along Route 14 should be improved through stronger development standards, stricter enforcement and the gradual elimination of non-conforming uses.
4. The major approaches to the Village of Barrington should be completely developed under a comprehensive beautification program. Once this beautification plan is developed and specific recommendations made and adopted, service organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and garden clubs should be encouraged to underwrite specific projects according to the specifications set forth in the overall beautification plan.
5. A "Route 14 Beautification Plan" should be developed. Green space and sidewalks should be increased wherever possible along Route 14.
6. Roadway design and standards should be uniform. Deviations should not be permitted except for unusual and exceptional situations justified by the needs of the Village.
7. Residents should be informed about options related to historic preservation, the architectural and historical significance of Village buildings should be ascertained and appropriate historic preservation programs and regulations should be pursued.
8. The Village of Barrington actively supports the presence of landscaping on both public and private property. The Village has been designated as a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Every effort should be taken to preserve key and significant trees (as defined by the Village's Tree Preservation and Management Ordinance) on development sites. Where preservation cannot take place, a replacement and mitigation plan shall be approved and implemented as part of the overall landscape plan. This will be required for development both within and outside the corporate limits.
9. Special consideration shall be given to all developments to ensure that air quality elements are incorporated into development plans. According to the US EPA, the Chicagoland area is a non-attaining air quality region. Therefore, measures for reducing traffic congestion and subsequent measures for air quality mitigation are important for all new development.
10. The Army Corps of Engineers shall be the lead authority on measures taken to preserve and enhance wetlands as they relate to development activity. The Village's Watershed Development Ordinance also addresses wetlands. Where practical, wetlands shall be retained, preserved, and enhanced in development projects, unless the Village specifically allows removal or relocation.

11. Flint Creek is an important natural resource throughout the Village. While it acts as the Village's main storm drain, it can also provide a wildlife habitat for birds, fish and other macro-invertebrates, and shall be improved or enhanced wherever possible or practical. Special attention shall be paid to stream bank stabilization and the restoration of native species and habitat where practical.
12. Many sites throughout the Village have been subjected to activities that resulted in the contamination of soil and possibly ground water on the specific site. Each development site shall be evaluated for historic contamination and releases. A mitigation plan shall be provided to ensure the safety of residents, the groundwater system, and the storm and sanitary systems throughout the Village.
13. Open spaces should be encouraged when associated with development proposals. Open space areas shall be maintained as natural elements or can be associated with recreational activities where practical. Any natural resources shall be improved or enhanced wherever possible or practical.